



In Case of Emergency...

Monthly Newsletter of the Utah Division of Emergency Services and Homeland Security

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REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAMS

DES recently received the fourth year of the Department of Justice Weapons of Mass Destruction equipment grant money. In the first three years of the grant, \$2.5 million has been received. This money was used to buy equipment as outlined in a need assessment that was completed in 2000.

The state received \$3.8 million this year and will use it to develop Regional Response Teams for WMD/hazardous material incident response. The grant will provide each county with a minimum of \$15,000 in response equipment. Each region will also receive approximately \$250,000 in technical response equipment. There will also be some funding available to augment existing explosive ordinance resources.

A majority of the current response capability in the state exists along the Wasatch Front. The regional response teams allow for a quicker response to incidents off the Wasatch Front. The state has now been divided into seven regions. Each of these regions will be provided equipment and training to bring their hazardous material response to an operations level. The regions are all moving forward in this effort. The southwest region (Washington, Iron and Kane counties) began the process first and is furthest along.

Each region has a steering committee that consists of representatives from local response agencies. These committees are tackling important issues such as inter-local agreements, cost recovery and distribution of assets. These meetings are open to the public. If you would like more information or to find out when the next steering committee is in your regions, please contact DeeEll Fifield or Lt. Mark Millett at 801-538-3400.

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM SUPPORT

Regardless of the type, a prolonged incident could severely impact local resources. Many jurisdictions do not have enough personnel to keep the Incident Command System running, 24-hours a day, seven days a week for a lengthy period of time.

In light of these potential impacts, local, county and state emergency management, law enforcement, fire, EMS, public works, and public information officials are looking at developing an ICS support organization. This organization could be requested by local incident commanders to provide backup and technical support for a prolonged incident of any kind.

A steering committee is meeting to review current incident command use, and training and exercises in Utah. This will hopefully lead to a stronger ICS program statewide. If you are interested in this process and would like to be involved, please contact Lt. Mark Millett, or DeeEll Fifield 801-538-3400

PROVIDENCE PRACTICES PREPAREDNESS

By Guest Contributor Wendy Robinson Simmons,
Providence City Council

I am a member of the Providence City Council. When I was elected three years ago, I was interested in implementing an Emergency Preparedness Plan for our city. The road has been bumpy, but with perseverance, we have overcome obstacles.

On October 9, we had our first emergency drill, and I am happy to report it was a resounding success!

We have about 1700 homes in our city. We have identified Neighborhood Coordinators who are responsible for seven to ten homes. An Area Coordinator is responsible for a certain geographic area. In the event of an emergency, the Neighborhood Coordinators walk from house to house checking on their families. They record the house number, the name of the family, and what their specific needs are. This list is then taken to the Area Coordinator. The Area Coordinator remains at his home until all the neighbors are accounted for (unless too much time has elapsed and he needs to go and check on what is causing the delay). At this point, the lists are brought to the City Command Post, which, in our case, is the City Office.

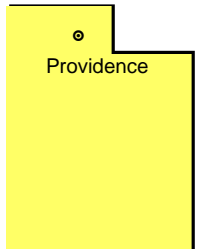
In a real emergency, those at the City Office would make a list of needs, addresses and how we plan to take care of the people. If the needs were more than our resources could handle, we would turn to the county, then the state of Utah, then FEMA. With the appropriate paper trail, we could be ready to receive their assistance.

We have distributed a packet of information to each household that gives a short explanation of each type of emergency that may be encountered and the link with the city to receive help. To those who may be interested, we have offered to give presentations on 72-hour kits, chemical emergencies, sheltering in place and implementing Neighborhood Watch. We have suggested that a Safety Committee be formed that meets every other month to discuss the concerns of each neighborhood.

I am grateful for the efforts of all the Area and Neighborhood Coordinators. I am now placing the responsibility of further preparation and training upon each neighborhood to decide what they want to have happen. I am more than willing to serve, but do not want to be overbearing.

Also, thanks to the three state officials who came to witness our drill.

If you would like to be a guest contributor, please e-mail your story to paulae@utah.gov for publication in a future issue.



HOMELAND SECURITY DIGEST

Utah's Homeland Security Intelligence Digest contains information to assist law enforcement in keeping citizens and infrastructure safe. The digest is based on the Olympic Intelligence Digest produced during the Olympics.

A scrubbed version of the digest will be available for private security personnel beginning November 14.

The Digest is posted each Thursday and can be accessed through the secure intelligence Web site at <https://cib400.state.ut.us/>. To gain access you must have a valid ULEIN username and password. Information on the web site is for law enforcement and security personnel on a need to know basis pursuant to specific homeland security roles.

Personnel that do not have a ULEIN usernames and password can obtain one by filling out a form on the site at <https://cib400.state.ut.us/UsernameForm.html>. You must have 128 bit encryption installed on your browser to use the form and the intelligence web site.

For additional information contact Sgt. Jeff Peterson at jpeterson@utah.gov or (801) 579-4448. To contribute intelligence to the Digest, email Sgt. Jeff Peterson at intel@utah.gov



HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT UPDATES

Thanks to the emergency program managers who returned their applications in a timely manner for the Homeland Security Planning and Citizen Corp/CERT Grants. The applications are now being processed. The state cannot make final decisions on grant awards until FEMA makes its final decision on state grants. An announcement on local grant awards should take place by the end of the year.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

DES in conjunction with the Utah Public Safety Public Information Officer Association will be sponsoring a PIO Conference March 18-19 in St. George. All those tasked with public information duties from local, state and federal government agencies, as well as non-profit organizations are invited to attend.

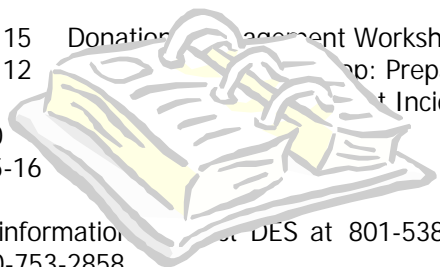
For more information, or to register, please visit des.utah.gov and check out the training calendar or contact Paula Ernstrom at paulae@utah.gov or 801-538-3738.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 15 Donation Management Workshop
December 12 Senior Officials Workshop: Preparedness & Response for Terrorist Incidents

January 10
January 15-16

For more information contact DES at 801-538-3400 or toll-free at 800-753-2858



LEPC UPDATE

Applications have been distributed to local jurisdictions for the Local Emergency Planning Committees grant. The deadline for submitting them back to DES is November 15. The deadline for submitting reimbursements for previous years is rapidly approaching as well. Please submit them to DeeEll Fifield as soon as possible.

Planning is underway for a LEPC conference the first week of February in St. George. Watch for more information in a future issue of this newsletter.

TERRORISM COUNCIL TO SPONSOR WORKSHOP

The Utah Counter Terrorism Coordination Council is sponsoring a Senior Officials Workshop: Preparedness and Response for Terrorist Incidents Involving Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Agents. It will take place December 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Wyndham Hotel in Salt Lake.

The first half of the workshop will cover planning issues and current capabilities of local, state and federal agencies. The second half is a tabletop exercise involving an NBC terrorism incident.

For additional information, or to enroll please visit the DES website at des.utah.gov or call 801-538-3400.

DON'T BE A TURKEY!

Thanksgiving means family, friends, and food! But when it comes to planning your holiday feast, taking shortcuts can lead to food borne illness, which will ruin anyone's holiday. Here are a few tips to keep everyone healthy this Thanksgiving.

When selecting a turkey, make sure that it is completely frozen. If you do not plan on cooking the turkey within 72 hours, put it in the freezer as soon as you get home.

Defrosting a turkey can be tricky. Defrosting on the kitchen counter can be a dangerous breeding ground for food borne illness. A safer bet is to place it in the refrigerator and allow 24 hours of thawing time for each five pounds of turkey.



Another method that works is to submerge the turkey in cold water for six to 12 hours. Make sure you change the water frequently. This method is ideal if you do not have much refrigerator space.

If you like stuffing, you should stuff your turkey immediately before cooking and don't overstuff it. Better yet, cook the stuffing in a separate casserole dish. Turkey should be cooked in a 325° oven until the inner thigh temperature reaches 180-185°. This is hot enough to kill the bacteria, without drying it out.

An important food safety rule is cleanliness in the kitchen. Keep your hands, utensils, and preparation surfaces clean before and after you prepare any side dish or the main course. This is the best way to prevent food borne illness.

Leftovers are common after a Thanksgiving feast. Everything should be refrigerated no more than two hours after it is taken out of the oven. Leftovers should also be eaten within three to four days.

Have a great Thanksgiving Holiday!